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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/731,137	12/10/2003	Yi-Cheng Yuan	YUAN3008/EM	4784

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BACON & THOMAS, PLLC
625 SLATERS LANE
FOURTH FLOOR
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

EXAMINER

FERGUSON, MICHAEL P

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3679

DATE MAILED: 12/21/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/731,137

Applicant(s)

YUAN ET AL.

Examiner

Michael P. Ferguson

Art Unit

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— The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address —

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 December 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7, 11 and 13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7, 11 and 13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 10 December 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on December 8, 2005 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-7, 11 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Cullen (US 5,775,862).

As to claim 1, Cullen discloses a fastening structure for a connector **72** having a threaded section, comprising:

a substrate **18**;

an inserting hole, formed through the substrate; and

a plurality of resilient sheets **20**, formed along an inner periphery of the inserting hole,

wherein each resilient sheet has a free section extending at a nonzero angle with respect to a plane of the substrate. And

wherein a distance between the free sections is slightly larger than a maximal diameter of the threaded section of the connector such that when the connector is inserted into the inserting hole, the free sections do not engage the connector (Figures 5-7), and such that when the free sections are pressed by a fixture to be parallel to a plane of the substrate, the free sections engage the threaded section to fasten the connector to the substrate without need for a fastening nut (Figures 2 and 5-9).

As to claim 2, Cullen discloses a fastening structure wherein the free section of each resilient sheet **20** is a curved free section (Figure 2).

As to claim 3, Cullen discloses a fastening structure wherein each resilient sheet **20** is integrally formed with the substrate **18** (Figure 2).

As to claim 4, Cullen discloses a fastening structure wherein the inserting hole has a rectangular cross-section taken in a radial direction (Figure 2).

As to claim 5, Cullen discloses a fastening structure wherein the resilient sheets **20** respectively have an arc shape and are mounted inside the inserting hole so that arc edges of the resilient sheets and an inner periphery of the inserting hole define an arc opening (Figure 2).

As to claim 6, Cullen discloses a fastening structure wherein the inserting hole has a polygonal cross-section taken in a radial direction (Figure 2).

As to claim 7, Cullen discloses a fastening structure wherein one edge of each resilient sheet **20** and the inner periphery of the inserting hole define an arc opening,

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while remaining portions of each resilient sheet are located outside the inserting hole (Figure 2).

As to claim 11, Cullen discloses a fastening structure wherein the resilient sheets **20** curve (radially) toward the connector **72** (Figure 5).

As to claim 13, Cullen discloses a fastening structure wherein the inserting hole has an approximately round hole (Figure 2).

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments filed December 8, 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

As to claim 1, Attorney argues that:

Cullen fails to disclose a fastening structure wherein a distance between the free sections is slightly larger than a maximal diameter of the threaded section of the connector *such that when the connector is inserted into the inserting hole, the free sections do not engage the connectors.*

Examiner disagrees. As to claim 1, Cullen discloses a fastening structure wherein a distance between the free sections **20** is slightly larger than a maximal diameter of the threaded section of the connector **72** such that when the connector is inserted into the inserting hole, the free sections do not engage the connector (Figures 5-7).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael P. Ferguson whose telephone number is (571)272-7081. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:00-5:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel P. Stodola can be reached on (571)272-7087. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


MPF
12/13/05



DANIEL P. STODOLA
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600